

# Grace Notes

MARCH/APRIL 2023 EDITION

Grace United Methodist Church



WE GATHER



WE GROW



WE GO

[WWW.PEOPLEOFGRACE.ORG](http://WWW.PEOPLEOFGRACE.ORG)

300 E. Gartner Rd.  
Naperville, IL 60540  
630-355-1748

# Grace Notes

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- Side x Side Youth Summer Mission Trip
- Mother's Day Weekend Musical
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## Join Us This Lenten Season

### Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 2

- + 8:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary with palm waving
- + 9:00AM Worship Service in the Activity Center with palm waving
- + 10:30AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary with palm waving



### Holy Wednesday

Wednesday, April 5

- + 5:00PM Family Worship Experience in the Sanctuary

### Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 6

- + 7:00PM Worship Service in the Sanctuary

### Good Friday

Friday, April 7

- + 7:00PM Worship Service in the Sanctuary



### Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 9

- + 8:00AM Worship Service with the Grace Bell Ensemble and Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
- + 9:30AM Worship Service with the Chancel Choir, Grace Praise Team, and Brass in the Sanctuary
- + 11:00AM Worship Service with the Chancel Choir, Grace Praise Team, and Brass in the Sanctuary



Find our 2023 Lenten Booklet of Devotions from the Friends and Family of Grace Church online at [peopleofgrace.org/lent2023](http://peopleofgrace.org/lent2023) or pick up a printed copy in the church office while supplies last. Will free donations are greatly appreciated.

## Easter Flower Orders

Spring is just around the corner and Easter will be upon us in no time! With your help, we would like to decorate the Sanctuary with flowers to celebrate this wonderful day. There will be a variety of beautiful plants to order and dedicate in honor, memory, or celebration of loved ones or a special occasion. The plants you order will be available to take home following the 11:00AM service on Easter Sunday. Place your order at the Welcome Desk or online at [peopleofgrace.org/easterflowers](http://peopleofgrace.org/easterflowers) by **March 15**.



## Confirmation Field Trip

Confirmation students and their parents will visit Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church on **Friday, March 17**. All students/parents should arrive at Saints Peter & Paul at 4:45PM with the evening ending at 6:30PM. Members of our Grace UMC congregation who would like to join us may contact Gaye Lynn Loufek at [gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) to learn more.



## Side x Side Youth Summer Mission Trip

The mission field is calling us and we are ready to answer the call! All who have completed 8th grade (by June 2023), college students, and interested adults are invited to attend our Mission Trip on **June 11 to June 17**. We will travel (YES, we said TRAVEL) to St. Louis, MO to serve this year for Side x Side. Stay tuned for more details and registration information at [peopleofgrace.org/sidexside](http://peopleofgrace.org/sidexside). Questions may be directed to Gaye Lynn Loufek at [gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org).



## Grace Loving Out Loud in February

Over the Presidents' Day weekend, approximately 120 people from Grace gathered with hundreds of others at North Central College's Rec Center to pack meals for FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN. The money raised from the November 2022 Noisy Offering totaled \$1,440.07 and were used to help purchase the projected 1 million dollar meal goal for the 2023 FMSC Feed the Need Mobile Pack.

The two packing sessions Grace assisted with contributed 1,724 boxes, which is 372,384 meals, that will feed 1,019 hungry children for a year! Thanks to all who supported the Mobile Pack through contributions to our Noisy Offering and/or participating in the pack itself! Your support is greatly appreciated, and we hope you'll plan to support the event in 2024! Start saving your change now! The Noisy Offering is Sunday, November 19, 2023!





## Spring Break

G.Y.M. (Grace Youth Ministry midweek Bible study) will not meet 3/29. Confirmation will NOT meet 3/26, 4/2, and 4/9 in recognition of Spring Break and Easter. Family worship Sundays will be 3/26, 4/2, and 4/9. All G.Y.M. and Confirmation activities resume **beginning April 12**.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Grab your basket, your best "hunting" shoes, and join us **Saturday, April 8 at 10:00AM to 11:30AM** at Grace UMC for our annual Easter Egg hunt! All 3-8 year olds are welcome! Silent auction, a special visitor, and more! Please check our website the day of the event in case of inclement weather! Stay tuned to our weekly enews for registration information.

Wrapped candy, small trinkets (able to fit inside a 4" plastic egg), and gift baskets for a silent auction are needed. Please place your donations in the bins provided in the gathering space between March 19 and March 26. Gift baskets may be delivered to the church no later than April 2. Questions or to volunteer, please contact Gaye Lynn at [gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org).



## Holy Smokes

Save the Date! Delicious bar-b-q returns to Grace on **Sunday, April 30**. Holy Smokes is a drive thru bar-b-q featuring 5-Bs Catering from Waterman, IL. The meat is smoked on the premises that day. All meals are served with baked beans, coleslaw, applesauce, roll, and butter. Holy Smokes takes place in the Lower Lot. Orders may be placed online at [peopleofgrace.org/holysmokes](http://peopleofgrace.org/holysmokes) or by calling the church office between March 26 through April 9.



## Mother's Day Weekend Musical

The Grace Children's Music Ministry will present the musical "Called" by Mark Burrows on Mother's Day weekend on **Friday, May 12 at 6:30PM and Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day) at 10:30AM** worship service. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Take heart! God has put something beautiful in you and is calling on you to share it with the world. It won't always be easy, but God knows you and believes in you...even when you forget to believe in yourself.

*God is not calling you to be someone else. God is not calling you to be like someone else. God is calling you because you're you. You are a child of God. You are worthy. You. Are. Called.*

- Mark Burrows

## Reel People

Are you a movie buff? Do you like to see movies on the big screen? Do you also prefer the good old movies with Jimmy Stewart or Clark Gable or Liz Taylor to today's super heroes? Come join us!

We are "Reel People," a senior movie review group who have been meeting since 2006. Our monthly format is to select a film (either currently showing or on DVD), watch it independently, and then convene at the church for a critique. Meetings are usually on the 4th Thursday at 2:00PM. We'd love to have you join us! Questions? Call Dick Trondsen at 630-340-5080.



## Mark Your Calendar for Concert Series at Grace!



**Saturday, March 18 at 7:00PM**

### Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir

Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir to present a Memorial Concert honoring Bob Guenzler on Saturday, March 18 at 7:00PM. A love (freewill) offering will be taken at the concert to help defray concert expenses. The Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir has established a long history of excellence through its on-campus performances, annual tours, and recordings. The Choir maintains the IWU Choral Commission Series, the oldest collegiate commission series in the United States. The choir is under the direction of Conductor Dr. J. Scott Ferguson. Learn more about the choir [here](#).

**Thursday, April 13 at 7:30PM**

### Rutherford B. Hayes Symphonic Choir

Grace UMC will host a concert by the Symphonic Choir from Rutherford B. Hayes High School from Delaware, Ohio (Dr. Dara A. Gillis, director). The music program at Hayes is one of the finest in Ohio, often receiving invitations to perform at the OMEA State Music Conference. We invite you to attend this free concert and to bring interested students. A love (freewill) offering will be invited.



**Sunday, April 23 at 4:00PM**

### NaperVoice Spring Concert

The inaugural concert for this philanthropic choir was nearly sold out with Feed My Starving Children being the blessed recipient of the proceeds. Mark your calendars now and watch for ticket info for the April concert, "Singing Our Superpowers," which will benefit KidsAboveAll. Visit [www.napervoice.org](http://www.napervoice.org) to learn more.

## Gospel Extravaganza



North Central College's student-led group, Voices of Praise (VOP), celebrated their 35th annual Gospel Extravaganza concert at Grace United Methodist Church on Saturday, February 11. Gospel Extravaganza is a time to celebrate the unity of African American culture and religion. The gospel music featured has Christian roots and stems from popular hymns sung by Africans during slavery. The songs often tell a story of hope which inspires the audience to stay strong and continue to forge ahead. [Click here to view the recording of the event.](#)

## United Women in Faith March Meeting

**March 7, 2023 at 9:30AM in Fellowship Hall**

Jennifer Brasfield, Executive Director, Riverwalk Adult Day Services  
Riverwalk Adult Day Services: "Sharing in Caring"

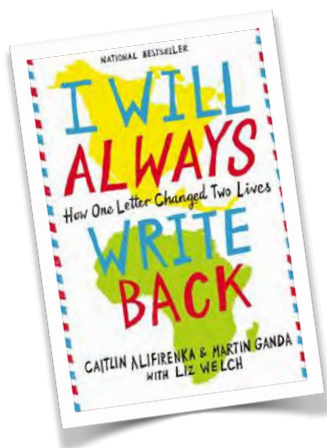


United  
Women  
in Faith

Jennifer Brasfield, Executive Director of Riverwalk Adult Day Services, will speak about a local organization which was founded over 40 years ago by a group of 15 religious institutions. They recognized the need and benefits to provide care for adults and respite for caregivers during the day while their loved ones were cared for by registered nurses and trained staff in a safe and nurturing environment. Riverwalk Adult Day Services provides a healthy, monitored, environment for adults to socialize with other adults, staff, and guests. Their mission is to provide a safe, social, stimulating environment for adults in need of daytime care.

Join us at this meeting and learn how Riverwalk Adult Day Services has helped our community and how we too can make a difference by supporting this worthwhile organization. In April, we will be collecting items for their wish list. Be looking for the list and drop-off information! "Let us help in sharing in the caring!"

For more information about United Women in Faith, contact UWIF President Kathy Carey at [percula4344@sbcglobal.net](mailto:percula4344@sbcglobal.net)) or visit [www.peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/united-methodist-women).



## Grace United Women in Faith Book Group

Join the Grace UWF Book Group on the 4th Wednesday of each month in January through October. We will meet in person at the church with a ZOOM option to discuss the book of the month. Please contact Cathy Connor at [cathy.connor.05@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.connor.05@gmail.com) for more information.

**March Book:** *I Will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka  
Meets Wednesday, March 22 at 12:45PM

**April Book:** *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi  
Meets Wednesday, April 26 at 12:45PM

## March Food Pantry Collection

March's pantry collection will benefit Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry. Every week they report that more clients need to pick up food. Volunteers delivering to "pantry to go" clients who are unable to pick up food on their own has increased to two days a week serving 140 clients. All cash donations are appreciated and can be put in Grace's Love Loaf by the Welcome Desk or donated via Push Pay by visiting [www.peopleofgrace.org/give](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/give) and choosing the "Love Loaf" option.



## April Food Pantry Collection

April's pantry collection will benefit the Marie Wilkinson's Food Pantry. They report that they see a 47% increase in first time visitors who never dreamed they would need to visit a pantry to feed their families. They rely on cash donations and their Food Rescue Program which picks up produce, meat, dairy, and baked goods from local farmers and grocery stores. Cash donations are appreciated and can be put in Grace's Love Loaf by the Welcome Desk or donated via Push Pay by visiting [www.peopleofgrace.org/give](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/give) and choosing the "Love Loaf" option.



## Grace Gardeners



During the bleak mid-winter, not much thought is given to our church grounds. Spring will soon be sprouting, and Grace Gardeners will be readying for a new season. Weather permitting, a paid contractor will be cutting back last year's perennials during March. The contractor applies Preen and mulch and trims bushes, as needed. Our volunteer Grace Gardeners take over from there.

What do Grace Gardeners do? Each takes responsibility for a bed or bed portion, keeping it tidy during the growing season. Only a few beds have any annuals, most have shrubs and perennials. Weeding or deadheading is done at whatever time is convenient for the individual.

Gardeners needed! Not all of our beds have caretakers. Please consider aiding the church in this way. Many hands make light work! Contact Betty Long at 630-730-5180 to learn more.

Please thank our 2022 Grace Gardeners for keeping Grace's landscaping lovely: Amy Westerhold, Jean Ives, Karen & Larry Hoopes, Barbara Hartman, Linda Fronk, Brenda Miskiewicz, Bob Saville, Gary Pauline, Rob & Jan Smucker, Joe Roop, Julie McCutcheon (roses), Betty Long, and our "lumberjack" Bob Schmitt.

## Raise the Roof Thanks All Donors

Thank you SO MUCH to all who have contributed to Raise the Roof in 2021 and 2022.

### Matches

In 2022, funds contributed in excess of previous commitments allowed us to qualify for:

- 100% match on \$50,000
- 50% match on an additional \$17,000

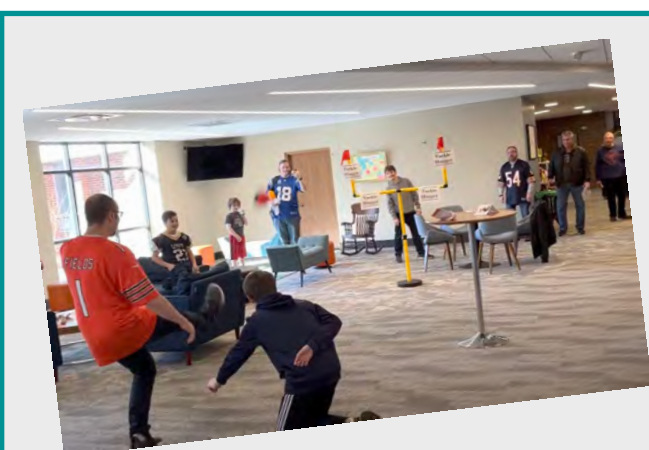
Thank you to a generous donor who provided \$25,000 and to Grace Foundation who is providing nearly \$34,000 in matches for 2022 donor contributions. Grace Foundation continues to offer 50% match on uncommitted funds, with approximately \$41,000 still available in 2023.

Raise the Roof continues to need your support!

### Projects

In 2022, Raise the Roof accomplished three major projects: 1) Re-roofed the flat portions of the roof; 2) Installed drainage pipe below the main parking lot to reduce water pressure on the uphill side of the building and stop water percolating up onto the main parking lot; 3) modified downstairs HVAC system along the rear to address excess humidity problems. Together, these projects cost \$281,000.

The Strategic Planning Team met in January to decide on priorities for 2023. First priority is replacing the worn out 50+ year old air handler that services the sanctuary (cost on order of \$75,000). The Strategic Planning Team will continue to address long-term maintenance/replacement/improvement needs and earn your trust that funds are used efficiently and wisely.



## GRACE WINS...

In the game of tackling (or kicking) hunger!

Thank you to ALL who participated in and contributed to **Souper Bowl of Caring**. Through your generosity we were able to provide **\$1,351.11** to our Hesus House ministry.

Way to go, TEAM!

# Save the Date

MARCH				
<b>3/18/2023</b>	Saturday	7:00PM	Memorial Concert honoring Bob Guenzler	Sanctuary
APRIL				
<b>4/2/2023</b>	Sunday	8:00AM, 9:00AM, and 10:30AM	Palm Sunday Worship Services	Sanctuary and Activity Center
<b>4/5/2023</b>	Wednesday	5:00PM	Holy Wednesday Family Worship Experience	Sanctuary
<b>4/6/2023</b>	Thursday	7:00PM	Maundy Thursday Worship Service	Sanctuary
<b>4/7/2023</b>	Friday	7:00 PM	Good Friday Worship Service	Sanctuary
<b>4/8/2023</b>	Saturday	10:00AM to 11:30AM	Easter Egg Hunt	Lower Lot
<b>4/9/2023</b>	Sunday	8:00AM, 9:30AM, and 11:00AM	Easter Sunday Worship Services	Sanctuary
<b>4/13/2023</b>	Thursday	7:30PM	Symphonic Choir from Rutherford B. Hayes High School	Sanctuary
<b>4/23/2023</b>	Sunday	4:00PM	NaperVoice Spring Concert	Sanctuary
<b>4/29/2023</b>	Saturday	10:00AM to 6:00PM	Weekend of Decision Confirmation Retreat	The Church
<b>4/30/2023</b>	Sunday	11:30AM to 1:30PM	Holy Smokes BBQ	Lower Lot
<b>4/30/2023</b>	Sunday	5:30PM	Confirmation Rehearsal	Sanctuary
MAY				
<b>5/7/2023</b>	Sunday	10:30AM	Confirmation	Sanctuary
<b>5/12/2023</b>	Friday	6:30PM	Mother's Day Children's Musical	Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
<b>5/14/2023</b>	Sunday	10:30AM	Mother's Day Children's Musical	Sanctuary

**HOW ARE YOU LOVING OUT LOUD IN LENT?**

Post a photo on Facebook or Instagram showing an act of kindness or ways you show love to your neighbor, and **TAG Grace United Methodist Church**.

**#LOVEOUTLOUD**



**Grace Cares**  
An Outreach ministry of Grace United Methodist Church



If you know of someone who would benefit from a visit or phone call or if you would like to be a volunteer, please contact Richard Newell, Grace Cares Coordinator, at [richard.newell@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:richard.newell@peopleofgrace.org) or 630-947-9311.

## Grace Notes Newsletter 2023 Publication Dates

In 2023, the *Grace Notes* newsletter will be published *every other month*. The next publication dates will be: **May 1, July 1, September 1, and November 1**. The deadline for materials for the newsletter is the 20th of the previous month. Please send your questions and submissions to [communications@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:communications@peopleofgrace.org).



# 2023 Vacation Bible School



## Welcoming ALL HEROES!

All children 3 years old through 4th grade are invited to join us for **Hero Hotline** VBS on **July 10 to July 14 at 9:00AM to 11:00AM** at Grace! Come meet Super Meer the Meerkat and learn how you have exactly what it takes to help bring peace, spread love, and teach others about God's love for us.

Registration is open NOW through April 30, 2023 at [www.peopleofgrace.org/vbs](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/vbs).

Each day will offer Bible stories, music, crafts, games, snacks, and an opportunity to meet new friends! You won't want to miss it! Questions may be directed to Becky Blachford at [vbs@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:vbs@peopleofgrace.org) or Gaye Lynn Loufek at [gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org).

## Heroes Needed

Many Adult HEROES (volunteers) are needed. Adult HEROES (anyone over 18 years of age and SafeGatherings approved) may register at [www.peopleofgrace.org/hero](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/hero) to be part of the team!

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